

LATE DR. HANCOCK.

MEMORIAL WINDOW UNVEILED

Ceremony at the University.

With simple ceremony, a memorial window to the late Dr. W. J. Hancock, the pioneer of the X-ray in this State, was unveiled in the foyer of the Winthrop Hall, at the University of Western Australia, yesterday afternoon by the Chancellor (Sir Walter James, K.C.). Dr. Hancock died in 1931 as a direct result of disabilities sustained during his research work. He was honorary radiologist to the Perth Hospital and the Base Hospital, Fremantle. The memorial fund, which was established by Associate-Professor P. H. Fraenkel, was subscribed to by members of the University, the West Australian branch of the British Medical Association, the Royal Society of Western Australia, the Perth division of the Institute of Engineers of Australia, and the University Engineers' Club. "In memory of a very dear friend and a fine man," said the Chancellor, as he unveiled the memorial.

Asking the Chancellor to accept the window on behalf of the University, and to unveil it, Associate-Professor Fraenkel said that Dr. Hancock had continued his research in X-ray with a total disregard for his health. During his life he had never sought recognition, and he had only once accepted it in the form of the Kelvin Medal of the Royal Society. As an electrical engineer, Dr. Hancock was connected with the history of the State for many years, and the idea of commemorating his unselfish and useful life had come from the engineering students, who had been loyally supported by other bodies.

Supporting Associate-Professor Fraenkel's remarks, Dr. K. Moss (president of the West Australian branch of the British Medical Association) traced the development of the modern X-ray from the ray discovered by Roentgen in 1895. "Mutilations and ulcerations were the stigmata of the radiologists," said Dr. Moss. "Dr. Hancock, when I first knew him, 30 years ago, was no exception to the general rule. In those days protection by shielded tubes, lead gloves, and aprons was almost unknown. Even then he had trouble with his hands, but, being the only radiologist in Western Australia, he offered himself on the altar of duty. He considered the welfare of the hospital patients rather than his own health, and, by his quixotism, sowed the seeds of the ill-health that eventually permanently invalidated him. Dr. Hancock was a most lovable character. In stature well over six feet, he was as gentle as a child. His tact and patience were remarkable, when it is remembered that he was not a medical man,

patience were remarkable, when it is remembered that he was not a medical man, but an electrical expert. It is most fitting that his memory should be perpetuated at the University by a window flooding the darkness with a gentle, mellow light. He was one of the heroes of peace."

Accepting the window on behalf of the University Senate, Sir Walter James said that the University would not allow any memorial to be erected in the Winthrop Hall unless it was in honour of a man who had done great work for the community, for science, and for education. More than that, the life of the man honoured must be such that it would inspire and strengthen the students who passed through the hall in the years to come.

"Dr. Hancock and I were young together," said the Chancellor, "and, had it not been for the tragedy of his death, our friendship would have gone on. Some thought him a dabbler, but he was really a searcher after scientific truths, one whose work was essential in the ultimate march of science. The X-ray was an arresting discovery, which even to those who were not scientists suggested wonderful possibilities; and we can understand how Dr. Hancock was impressed with this far-reaching discovery. In the advances of science, many have been wounded and fallen by the way, but how could science have moved forward unless each had played his part? Nothing would please Dr. Hancock more than to know that we appreciate what he did. In this window we have honoured the memory of a man who laid down his life in the search for truth. That is essentially what this University should seek, for it is such work that its motto 'Seek Wisdom' exemplifies. Seeking truth, Dr. Hancock brought it home to us all."

Among those present at the ceremony were Mr. Neilson Hancock (brother of Dr. Hancock), the Vice-Chancellor of the University (Professor H. E. Whitfeld), Mr. E. C. Edmondson (representing the Perth division of the Institute of Engineers of Australia), Dr. H. J. Gray (past-president of the West Australian branch of the British Medical Association), the Warden of Convocation (Archdeacon C. L. Riley), Professor N. T. M. Wilsmore, Associate-Professor Tattersal, Mr. J. Thomson (formerly Engineer-in-Chief, who was intimately associated with Dr. Hancock when the latter was Government Electrical Engineer), and Mr. P. C. Lewis (representing the University Engineers' Club), and members of the professions and members of the University staff and students.

The memorial window incorporates the symbols of science, the lamp of learning, the serpent of healing, a crown of honour, and a scroll with the words "Greater Love Hath No Man." A feature of the design is the late Dr. Hancock's crest at the bottom of the window—a cock and an Irish shamrock—and the motto "Vincit Amor Patriae" (Love of Country Pre-

Amor Patriae" (Love of Country Prevails). Brpoka, Robinson, Pty., Ltd., designed and made the window which was sent to Perth in sections and erected in the foyer of the Winthrop Hall by Barnett Bros., Ltd.